175 668 leader of the liberal national movement in southern Estonia, fighting against the privileges of the German nobility. More radical was the other daily, Teataja (Announcer) at Tallinn, the editor of which became, in 1901, Konstantin Päts, also a lawyer, and later President of the Estonian Republic. A great achievement for K. Päts and the Teataja group was the victory of the Estonians in the municipal elections at Tallinn in 1904, when Jaan Poska was elected mayor and took over the rule of the municipality from the Germans.

175 669 The revolutions of 1905 and 1917. After the unpopular Russo-Japanese War in which Russia was defeated, revolts broke out all over the Russian Empire and reached even to the Baltic. While the revolution of 1905 in Russia proper

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

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was a movement against the czarist regime, in Estonia it was mainly directed against the land-owning German nobility. Estates were burned and barons were assassinated. The workers, with the full support of all classes of people, especially the intelligentsia, organized strikes at Tallinn, demanding an Estonian democratic republic. Even by the time of this revolution, there was a violent clash between the radical socialistic and the more moderate national elements in Estonia. To suppress the revolution, the czarist government sent "punishment details" of Russian soldiers to Estonia, whose leaders belonged mostly to the local nobility. They soon liquidated the revolt; many innocent people were sentenced to death and many were sent to Siberia for long-term imprisonment. A great number of the national leaders succeeded in escaping

l:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

175 669 and were sentenced to death in absentia. They had to remain abroad until the revolution of 1917.

175 178 Despite all the post-revolutionary political reaction, a greater degree of liberalism was allowed in cultural life. Economically, the period between the revolutions meant great progress. Estonian private schools were founded, adult educational societies were very active, large theaters were built: "Vanemuine" at Tartu, "Estonia" at Tallinn, and "Endla" at Pärnu. The Estonian Literary Society was founded for the promotion of all aspects of cultural life, and a number of institutions were begun: the Estonian National Museum, which collected many valuable items of Estonian material cultural; and many co-operative societies and farmers' societies which helped the farmers to become better acquainted with modern

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

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The birth of independence and the War of Liberation. The next important step was the organization of the Estonian soldiers who had fought in the Russian Army into Estonian national units. Response to the proclamation of Estonian authorities was enthusiastic and many of the over 100,000 Estonians in the Russian armed forces returned home and joined the Estonian army, among them many high officers, although in many Russian units the Estonians were not granted permission to leave. When in St. Petersburg the Russian Provisional Government was overthrown by the Bolsheviks on November 8, 1917, the Estonian Bolsheviks followed the same pattern and the War Revolutionary Committee, headed by V. Kingissepp, took over from Poska the Commissariat of Estonia, and the councils of workers and soldiers began taking

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1/1 [After election of Estonian Diet, July 1917, see cat. 116, pp. 36-37 Analyst]

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonisn RG4

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over the governmental institutions. In the midst of this tumult, the Estonian Diet met and proclaimed itself on November 28, 1917, the supreme power in the country until the elections of the Constituent Assembly, and delegated its powers to the Council of Elders, which continued to work for the independence of Estonia. After preparing the Manifest of Estonian Independence, February 24, 1918, this body proclaimed Estonia an independent democratic republic, delegating at the same time all power to the Estonian Rescue Committee consisting of K. Päts, Jüri Vilms and K. Konik, which formed the first Estonian Provisional Government, with Päts as premier. Estonian independence was proclaimed at Tallinn immediately after the Bolsheviks had left the city and before the German troops arrived. The German occupation

669 Communist Party was outlawed and the Estonian people grew more and more suspicious of Communist propaganda, and the trend in Estonian politics went further and further to the right.

423 The agrarian law, one of the most farsighted and basic legislations of the new republic, enabled the Estonian authorities to carry out wide agrarian reforms during the years 1919-1926. Before that, Estonian farmers had held about 1.7 million hectares, or 42 per cent of the agricultural land, while 2.4 million hectares, or 58 per cent belonged to only 1,149 large estates, [423] owned mainly by the German gentry. The Estonian Government expropriated 96.6 per cent of the estates, paying the owners compensation on the basis of the value of land in 1901 and for the livestock according to market prices in 1914. Four hundred of these estates were retained by

1: Indiana U. S-4. 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

000 Constitution of Estonia: June 15, 1920.

669 One political event of importance should be noted here. After the War of Liberation the Estonian Communists continued to work in close contact with the Soviet Union. On December 1, 1924, led by the fanatic Estonian Communist, V. Kingissepp, who together with small armed units had infiltrated across the Soviet border to Estonia, a coup d'état was attempted at the instigation of the Third International or the Russian Communists. This attempt, however, was a failure for the Estonian Communists failed to give their assistance, the army in a few hours put down the revolt, and Kingissepp was killed in action. The Soviet Government named a town behind Narva Kingissepovo in commemoration of his loyalty. In Estonia the result of this unsuccessful revolt was that the

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1r,

Sociological Background

ATTITUDES AND REACTIONS OF THE PEOPLE

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The Estonians have for centuries been known as a peaceful nation, but they have proved also in the past that they are willing to defend their country if they are attacked and that they can make good soldiers. Since there are no open revolts in the Soviet Union -- these are eliminated in the police state -- passive resistance is almost the only way in which the people can react the the regime. The Estonian farmers tried open resistance to the collectivization of their farms, but mass deportations were the result. These and similar losses have shown the Estonians that open resistance means national suicide.

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

Annex "A," Subparagraph 2f,

Political Background

SUBVERSIVE POTENTIALITIES

669 Revolutionary movements of Estonians have been discussed in Subparagraph 1b, HISTORICAL SETTING.[1]

There has been an underground movement during each occupation of Estonia. During the German Occupation it was headed by the Estonian Liberation Committee, or National Council, formed of representatives of old political parties. The Germans arrested many Estonian nationalists and kept them for a long time in prison. Meanwhile, an underground Estonian government was formed, with Otto Tief as Prime Minister. There has been too little publicity about this underground movement and several of its prominent leaders have died. For at least

1[See cat. 116.]

609 one day the Estonian flag waved again at Tallinn Toompea (seat of the Estonian government and Riigikogu), on 20 September 1944, when the German forces were leaving and the Red Army had not yet taken over. By this time many Estonian men took to the woods, and became "Forest Brothers" (metsavenaad). Many people believed that this Soviet Occupation would be a short one and hoped that at the end of the war Estonian independence would be restored. At the beginning of the Second Soviet Occupation the "Forest Brothers" were quite strong; they were armed and caused much trouble and worry to the Soviet authorities. In these first years, they had enthusiastic leaders, according to rumors. But gradually their forces weakened as the occupation went on and the woods were combed, and the farmers who had supported

1:Indiana U. S-4, 5(1954-5)1955 RG4 Estonia RG4

the rebels with food and other necessities were deported. Nevertheless, it is rumored that every time a new mass deportation occurs in Estonia the number of "Forest Brothers" increases. One Estonian refugee, Manivald Rästas, who escaped to England in the spring of 1955, has reported that young men are now escaping to the woods again to evade the Soviet order according to which young men are "voluntarily" sent to remote Russia for agricultural work.

SOURCE

113 Vaba Eesti Sõna [Free Estonian Word]
1955. May 12, p. 6. New York.

11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704

EP4 Lapps
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Estonians RG4

The Hiſtory of Livonia.

Livonia, retaining much of the Barbarity as well as Superſtitions of their Pagan Anceſtors: They have nothing of their own, but are meer Slaves to the Nobility, who give them certain Allotments of Lands to Cultivate, for the bare ſubſiſtence of their Families, the overplus being reſerved for their Lords, unto whom they are obliged to do certain Services at their Country Seats, in proportion of their Poſſeſſions they hold under them. It muſt be acknowledged that their Slavery is almoſt unſupportable; but the *Livonian* Nobility excuſe this hard Uſage with their Stubbornneſs, which is ſuch, that unleſs they be oppreſs'd beyond all Hopes or Thoughts of relief, they would ſoon turn out their Maſters, of which they have ſometimes given ſufficient Proof, when occaſion has preſented.

They are indeed *Lutherans* by Name, and there is ſcarce a Village but what has its own Church; but what with their Obſtinacy and Perſeverance in their Heathenish Superſtitions, and what with their careleſneſs and little regard of a future State, they have ſcarce any thing that bears the reſemblance of a Chriſtian, except it be Baptiſm; for as to hear Sermons, and to go to Communion, they are ſcarce ever ſeen at it, except it be by Compulſion, or for ſome Intereſt relating to the conveniencies of this Life. If they are asked the Reaſon, they alledge, that their Slavery and Drudgery is ſuch, that it is impoſſible for them to apply themſelves to Devotion. And to confeſs the Truth, this ſeems to be no framed Excuſe; for conſidering, that beſides the Daily Turmoils they undergo at Home for providing for their Families, they are obliged to do Services at the Seats of their Lords, whither they repair early in the Morning every *Monday*, and return not till late on *Saturday* Night; during which time they have ſcarce two Hours in 24 allow'd them for Sleep (if their Lords be good Natur'd, for the reſt give them ſcarce any intermiſſion) during which time they undergo ſuch incredible Fatigues and Drudgeries (both Men and Women) in cleaving of Wood, Cultivating the Ground, Thraſhing and Drying of Corn, that it is no Wonder, if they rather apply theſe few Hours on *Sundays* for Reſt than in Devotion. This inſupportable Slavery, their want of Reſt, and the Badneſs of their Diet, being nothing elſe but Rye Bread, dry

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11: Scheffer O-4, 5 (ca. 1660) 1704

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ſeveral Profeſſors, who Read and Teach the Liberal Sciences. Not far from this City, about half a League from the Sea-ſhore, is to be ſeen the Ruins of a once ſtately Monaſtery, Founded about the beginning of the XV. Century, by a rich Merchant of this City, and Dedicated to St. *Bridget*: It conſiſted both of Men and Women, and the Book which contains the Foundation of it acquaints the Reader, that already in thoſe Days the Fryars and Nuns were ſo ingenious as to entertain a ſecret Commerce by certain Signs of which there is a kind of ſmall Dictionary affixed at the end.

The Fort *Badö*, belonging to this Diſtrict, lies upon the River *Aſſa*.

The Diſtrict of *Jerve*, being an Inland Country, contains the Caſtle of *Witten* or *Weiſſenſtein*, *Upperpalen* and *Leu*, places of pretty good ſtrength.

Neither has the Diſtrict of *Wicke* more than four places of any Note, *viz. Hapſal*, near the Bay of *Bothnia*, once in the Poſſeſſion of the *Danes*, under their King *Frederick* II. but was taken by the *Muſcovites* 1575 and in ſix Years after recovered by the *Swedes*; *Lode*, *Leal* and *Wicke*.

II. The Province of *Odepoa* borders to the *Eaſt* upon the Lake *Pipus*, to the *North* on the Rivers *Fela*, *Pernaw* and *Embec*; to the *Weſt*, on the Bay of *Livonia*, and on the *South* it is bounded by the Province of *Lettie*. Its chief City is *Deopt* or *Torpat*; by the *Muſcovites* call'd *Jurigorod*, being ſeated betwixt the two Lakes *Worzero* and *Papus*, upon the River *Embec*, a pretty large City, the Remnants of its antient Stone Buildings and Walls, being ſufficient Teſtimonies, that this place was none of the leaſt conſiderable in thoſe Parts, it having been formerly alſo a Biſhops See. It was in the Poſſeſſion of the *Muſcovites* till 1230, when the Maſter of the *Teutonick* Order conquered it by the Sword. In the Year 1558, that famous *Ruſſian* Tyrant *Ivan Baſiterits*, advanced againſt this City with a formidable Army, which ſtruck ſuch Terror into the Inhabitants, that they ſurrendred immediately; but the Year 1571 proved fatal to them; for a certain *Livonian* Gentleman, call'd *Reinold Roſe*, having laid a deſign to deliver the City from the *Muſcovite* Slavery, by putting it into the Hands of *Magnus*, the then Duke of *Holſtein*; and the

Plot

11: Scheffer O-4,5 (ca. 1660) 1704
EP4 Lapps
Estonians RG4

Plot being diſcovered before it could be put in Execution, the *Muſcovites* took a fatal Revenge upon the Inhabitants, without the leaſt diſtinction of either Age or Sex. About ten Years after, *viz*, 1582, by Vertue of a Treaty of Peace made betwixt the ſaid *Ivan Baſilovits*, and *Stephen Bathor*, King of *Poland*, it was ſurrendred to the laſt, with the remaining part of *Livonia*. Not long after the *Swediſh* Duke *Charles* of *Ludermanland* took from the *Poles*, and theſe again recovered it from the *Swedes* 1603, till in the Year 1625, *James de la Gardie*, the *Swediſh* General, took all again from the *Poles*, ſince which time it has remained conſtantly in the Poſſeſſion of the *Swedes*, whichw as confirm'd to them firſt by Vertue of the Truce made betwixt the two Crowns 1635, and afterwards by the Peace of *Oliva*. King *Guſtave Adolph* Founded an Univerſity there 1632; but it is frequented only by a few *Finlanders*, the *Livonian* Gentlemen rather chuſing to ſend their Sons to Forreign Univerſities, eſpecially in *Germany* and *Holland*.

Next to this is the City of *Warbeck*, near the Mouth of the River *Embec*: The Fort of *Ringer*, *Kanneleks*, *Odepea*, a ſmall Town noted for nothing elſe, but that it has communicated its Name to the whole Diſtrict: The two ſtrong Forts of *Niewenhuſen* and *Marienburgh*, the firſt on the Borders of *Muſcovy*, the laſt upon the Lake *Pipus*. *Tarneſt* was a goodly Town whilſt in the Hands of the *Muſcovites*; but being taken from them by the *Poles*, they quite demoliſhed it, when they were forced to quit it to the *Swedes*. *Fellin* and *Lemſal* are alſo Places of no great Conſequence; but *Parnaw*, as it was formerly a Member of the *Hanſeatick* League, ſo it was very flouriſhing in Trade, which is however much decayed of late, unleſs it be in Wheat, of which they Tranſport a conſiderable quantity every Year. It is not very large, but pretty compact, built of Wood, after the *Muſcovite* faſhion; it is ſituate upon the River *Parnaw*, (from whence it has got its Name) which riſes out of *Weiſſenſtein* upon the ſmall River *Beca*, and being in its Paſſage increaſed by the two Rivers *Fela* and *Perukcia*, diſembogues in the *Baltick*, not far below this City. The *Poles* were the firſt who Conquered it from the *Muſcovites*, but *Eric* XIV. King of *Sweden*, Conquered it 1562. Three Years after the *Poles* regain'd

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